



Metropolitan King County Council

District 11 Issue Update

Dear Neighbor,

August 2000

I don't have to tell you we are facing a transportation crisis. According to a study released last year, this area has the third worst traffic in the nation. This congestion has a price: it costs us productive and quality hours, increases the costs of operating our vehicles, and creates pollution that deteriorates our environment. Part of King County's efforts to address this problem has been the development of a nationally recognized regional transit system. However, the loss of \$110 million per year in revenues that supported bus service has put our present system in jeopardy.

Here's what we've done so far to address lost revenues. Our first move was to cut the least productive bus routes (135,000 service hours), reducing our annual costs by \$8.1 million. The Council next looked for efficiencies, cutting the cost of bureaucracy \$18.6 million to devote as many dollars as possible toward service. With \$81 million received from the State in one-time money, this will allow Metro to operate with current service levels through December. This buys time, but in 2001 there will still be a shortfall of at least 500,000 service hours, or \$30 million.

This July, County Executive Ron Sims proposed a ballot measure called "TRIP-21" which would increase sales tax by 0.3 percent to fund transit projects. TRIP-21 not only funds Metro, but also Sound Transit. The Council is currently debating this proposal. I would like your input on the content and timing of this ballot proposal.

I am very concerned about asking voters for a tax increase in a region that already has a high sales tax. And, because Washington State utilizes a sales tax in lieu of state income tax, citizens are unable to get federal income tax deductions for the tax paid that would be available for payment of state income tax.

This is a crucial decision, and I would like your help reconciling the various options before final action. What will improve your transit system? Which projects do you want for increasing our mobility? I will be holding town meetings on August 29th. Please come. Also, please take the time to fill out and return via mail the survey below, submit your response on-line at my website at www.metrokc.gov/mkcc/Members/d11/index.htm. We must work together to unlock gridlock.

Sincerely,

King County Councilmember
District Eleven

Primary Election - Sept. 19th
General Election - Nov. 7th
Are you registered to vote?
If not, call 296-VOTE (8683).

Questionnaire:

- Do you support collection of a sales tax to fund county transit projects? (Check one box only.)
(a) ☐ Yes (go to part b) ☐ No (go to #2)
(b) If yes on (a), how much? (Check one box only.)
☐ .1 (1 cent per \$10 purchase)
☐ .2 (2 cents per \$10 purchase)
☐ .3 (3 cents per \$10 purchase)
- Do you support a requirement that state and local governments spend 90% of their transportation budgets on road construction and maintenance? (Check one box only.)
☐ Yes ☐ No
- If .1 or .2 only included bus service restoration and expansion, would you be supportive? (Check one box only.)
☐ Yes ☐ No
- Please rank the following transportation alternatives according to priority (with 1 being highest and 10 being lowest priority.)
 Bus circulator in downtown Bellevue and Kirkland
 Expanded bus service to park-and-rides
 Expanded peak commuter hour bus service
 Expansion of freeway ramps, lanes
 Ferry service across Lake Washington
 Kirkland Transit Center expansion
 Park & Ride additions/expansion on I-90, SR 520, and I-405 corridors
 Sound Transit light rail to Northgate
 Sound Transit light rail to Southcenter
 Traffic signal synchronization
- If you knew that 1% of our sales tax was currently in place to support transit related projects, would you be supportive? (Check one box only.)
☐ Yes ☐ No

Jane Hague, Councilmember
Metropolitan King County Council
King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200
Seattle, WA 98104-3272

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Jane Hague,
Councilmember
Metropolitan King
County Council

Metropolitan King County Councilmember
Jane Hague invites you to a
TOWN MEETING
with Connie Marshall, Deputy Mayor of Bellevue

Friday, September 8, 2000
4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
Bellevue City Hall, Council Chambers
11511 Main Street
Bellevue, WA 98004
(425) 452-7810

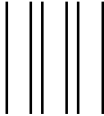
*Come share your thoughts and concerns
about the transportation issues
that confront us on the Eastside.*



Connie Marshall,
Deputy Mayor
Bellevue



**CONSTITUENT
COMMENTS**
Councilmember
Jane Hague



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